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Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations[1] and on the Central Emergency Response Fund,[2]

Reaffirming the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with grave concern the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact within recent years, and reaffirming the importance of implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[3] including providing adequate resources for disaster risk reduction, including disaster preparedness,

Recognizing that building national and local preparedness and response capacity is critical to a more predictable and effective response,

[1] A/62/87-E/2007/70.
[2] A/62/72-E/2007/73.
[3] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

Emphasizing the need to mobilize adequate, predictable, timely and flexible resources for humanitarian assistance based on and in proportion to assessed needs, with a view to ensuring fuller coverage of the needs in all sectors and across humanitarian emergencies,

Noting with grave concern that violence, including gender-based violence and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations in many emergency situations,

Reiterating the need for Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance, including by addressing the specific needs of men, women, boys and girls in a comprehensive and consistent manner,

Reaffirming the need for all humanitarian personnel, United Nations and associated personnel and non-governmental organizations to maintain transparency and to act in a manner that is in accordance with the principles for the provision of humanitarian assistance and with their obligations under relevant provisions of international law and national laws, and to remain sensitive to local customs and traditions in the countries of their assignment,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the United Nations to improve humanitarian response, including by strengthening humanitarian response capacities, by improving humanitarian coordination and by enhancing predictable and adequate funding,

Recognizing that in the improvement of the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, United Nations organizations should work in close coordination with national Governments,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the outcome of the tenth humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council, during its substantive session of 2007;

2. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue his efforts to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance, and calls upon relevant United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and relevant development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

3. *Recognizes* the benefits of engagement of and coordination with relevant humanitarian actors to the effectiveness of humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations to continue to pursue efforts to strengthen partnerships at the global level with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations and other participants of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

4. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and, as appropriate, other relevant humanitarian actors, to pursue efforts to improve the humanitarian response to natural and man-made disasters and complex emergencies by further strengthening the humanitarian response capacities at all levels, by continuing to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance at the field level, including with national authorities of the affected State, as appropriate, and by further enhancing transparency, performance and accountability;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the support provided to United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators and to United Nations country teams, including through the provision of necessary training, the identification of resources and by improving the identification and selection of United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators;

6. *Emphasizes* the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, reaffirms the leading role of civilian organizations in implementing humanitarian assistance, particularly in areas affected by conflicts, and affirms the need, in situations where military capacity and assets are used to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, for their use to be in conformity with international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles;

7. *Recalls* the request made by the Economic and Social Council in paragraph 12 of its resolution 2007/3 of 17 July 2007 that the Secretary-General review and report, in consultation with Member States, on the use of military assets for disaster relief, with the aim of improving the predictability and use of these assets, based on humanitarian principles;

8. *Encourages* relevant United Nations organizations to strengthen the coordination and collaboration between development and humanitarian entities, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in integrating disaster risk reduction into their activities;

9. *Reaffirms* the importance of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[3] welcomes the first meeting, in June 2007, of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, and calls upon the international community to increase resources to reduce the risks of disasters associated with natural hazards, including by supporting early warning systems, as appropriate;

10. *Encourages* the international community to support efforts of Member States aimed at strengthening their capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters;

11. *Encourages* relevant United Nations organizations to support the efforts of Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen systems for identifying and monitoring disaster risk, including vulnerability and natural hazards;

12. *Encourages* States to create an enabling environment for the capacity-building of local authorities and national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in providing humanitarian assistance;

13. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations organizations to support the improvements of the consolidated appeals process by, inter alia, engaging in the preparation of needs analysis and common action plans, in order to further the development of the process as an instrument for United Nations strategic planning and prioritization, and by involving other relevant humanitarian organizations in the process, while reiterating that consolidated appeals are prepared in consultation with affected States;

14. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability of humanitarian needs assessments, to assess

their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by these organizations;

15. *Calls upon* donors to provide adequate, timely, predictable and flexible resources based on and in proportion to assessed needs, including for under-funded emergencies, and encourages efforts to adhere to the principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship;

16. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Secretary-General in setting up appropriate monitoring, reporting and accountability mechanisms for the Central Emergency Response Fund, stresses the importance of continuing to ensure that the resources are allocated and used in the most efficient, effective and transparent manner possible, and looks forward to the independent review of the Fund in 2008;

17. *Reaffirms* the target of 500 million dollars by 2008, urges all Member States, and invites the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions to consider making voluntary contributions to the Fund, and emphasizes that contributions should be additional to current commitments to humanitarian programming and to resources made available for international development cooperation;

18. *Reiterates* that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat should benefit from adequate and more predictable funding;

19. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians in armed conflicts in accordance with international humanitarian law, and invites States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

20. *Calls upon* States to adopt preventive measures and effective responses to acts of violence committed against civilian populations in armed conflicts as well as to ensure that those responsible are promptly brought to justice, as provided by national law and obligations under international law;

21. *Urges* all Member States to take effective measures to address gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies, and to make all possible efforts to ensure that their laws and institutions are adequate to prevent, promptly investigate and prosecute acts of gender-based violence;

22. *Calls upon* all Member States, and encourages the relevant organizations of the United Nations to strengthen support services, including psychosocial support, to victims of gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies;

23. *Recognizes* the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement[4] as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, encourages Member States and humanitarian agencies to continue to work together in endeavours to provide a more predictable response to the needs of internally displaced persons, and in this regard calls for international support, upon request, to capacity-building efforts of States;

24. *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict, and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of

[4] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel as well as delivery of supplies and equipment in order to allow them to perform efficiently their task of assisting the affected civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

25. *Re-emphasizes* the importance of the discussion of humanitarian policies and activities in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and that these discussions should be continuously revitalized by Member States with a view to enhancing their relevance, efficiency and impact;

26. *Encourages* Member States to continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on humanitarian issues, based on their respective mandates and taking into account comparative advantages and existing complementarities of the two bodies;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2008, on progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and to submit a report to the Assembly on the independent review of the Central Emergency Response Fund in 2008.